



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### BMP Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

February 7, 2006  
Best Western Midway, Wausau, Wisconsin

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#### Committee Members Present:

Lee Schauman, Jim Olive, and Jeff Weatherly, FISTA; Dave Stoiber, International Paper; Lynn Wilson, Lake States Lumber Association; Steve Kariainen, SFI SIC; Gail Pierce, River Alliance of Wisconsin; Bob Rogers, Society of American Foresters; Tim Tollefson, Stora Enso; Henry Schienebeck, Timber Producers Association; Larry Meicher, Trout Unlimited; John DuPlissis, UWSP; Mary Platner, Wisconsin Association of Lakes; Colette Matthews, Wisconsin County Forests Association; Jack Nedland, Barron County Forest; Gene Francisco, Wisconsin Professional Loggers/Timber Producers Association; Mike Gehrke, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association;

#### DNR Staff Present:

Darrell Zastrow, Carmen Wagner, Shane Lishawa, Kristin Shy

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#### Welcome and Introductions: John DuPlissis

John welcomed the group and asked for introductions. John reviewed the agenda and asked for additional items.

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#### Forestry BMP Advisory Committee Operational Guidelines: Darrell Zastrow & John DuPlissis

Darrell reviewed the revised operational guidelines which included suggestions from the November Advisory Committee meeting. Two more changes were identified for the committee charge. The Committee approved language for the fourth and sixth bullets to read respectively:

- Assessing the implementation of Forestry BMPs to achieve sustainable forest management goals.
- Increasing public awareness and understanding about Forestry BMPs and how they help to improve the social, economic, and ecological values of Wisconsin's forests.

Darrell and John also reviewed the decision-making process. The Committee will strive to use full consensus as its decision-making process.

At the next meeting, the operational guidelines, as approved at the February meeting, will be presented.

### **2006 Forestry BMP Monitoring Proposals: Shane Lishawa**

Shane provided a historical perspective on Wisconsin's Forestry BMP monitoring. In 2003, the BMP Advisory Committee revised the monitoring protocol to focus on individual landowner categories instead of a statewide method. This change was needed in order to collect statistically valid monitoring results for all landowner categories. To date, there are statistically valid results for non-industrial private forest (NIPF) lands, county lands, state lands, and Wisconsin as a whole. Three BMP monitoring alternatives were discussed for 2006 on industrial lands, federal lands and NIPF lands.

The feasibility of integrating the regional BMP monitoring protocol with the Wisconsin BMP monitoring protocol was also discussed. Concerns were expressed about federal oversight. Several members expressed appreciation for the quantification aspect of the regional protocol.

The committee decided:

- BMP monitoring will be conducted on both federal and industrial timber sales in 2006.
- Voluntary monitoring teams will be used for monitoring in 2006.
- Evaluation of the regional monitoring protocol will continue, including an exercise for advisory committee members comparing the regional BMP monitoring protocol with the Wisconsin BMP monitoring protocol at the next meeting.

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### **Proposed General Permits for Temporary Stream Crossings: Carmen Wagner**

Carmen reviewed the proposed language for a general permit for temporary stream crossings for forest management activities. Currently, these types of structures must go through the individual permit process.

Advisory committee members provided comments on the proposed general permit standards and also on the existing permitting process. Modifications may be made to the proposed general permit language based on the comments provided by advisory committee members.

Carmen will keep advisory Committee members apprised on the development of this rule language and will share when public hearings are scheduled.

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### **Forestry BMP Web-pages and Publications: Kristin Shy**

Kristin informed the group that the 1995 – 2005 Forestry BMP publication she presented at the November meeting is going to the graphic designer.

The BMP website has been updated. The BMP field manual page now includes individual chapter links, pdf versions of the manual, related publication links, additional information links, and contact links. Visit the newly revised web page at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Usesof/bmp/bmp.htm>.

Kristin compiled a list of frequently asked questions about forestry BMPs that were added to the Forestry FAQ webpage, <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/faq.htm>.

Committee members voiced their opinion on the importance of various publications through a sticker voting process. These results will be used to direct the DNR's efforts in revising and updating publications. The results of this survey are:

1. Forestry Facts (13 votes)
  2. Planning Roads and Trails for Your Woods (11)  
    Permitting Publications (new) (11)
  3. Forestry BMP Workbook (new) (8)
  4. Seed Mixes for Road Closures (new) (6)
  5. Spills on Logging Operations (5)
  6. Suggested on the board (new) - Wisconsin Forestry for Landowners (3)
  7. Managing Wisconsin's Forested Shoreland (2)
  8. Forestry BMP Monitoring Reports (1)
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#### Process for Updating the BMP Manual: Kristin Shy

Kristin introduced the process for updating the BMP manual. The process approved by the Advisory Committee is as follows:

##### **Step 1: Solicit input**

Step 2: Summarize input- review by experts

Step 3: Forestry BMP Advisory Committee evaluates expert's recommendations

Step 4: Initiate modifications to those BMPs identified

Step 5: Implement new BMPs

After the presentation, there was a lengthy discussion of the need to initiate this process. In the end, the committee decided that we will not begin the process of soliciting input for updating the BMPs at this time. The committee agreed that the focus for now is to complete the 2006 monitoring cycle. Kristin was asked to compile results of previous monitoring efforts that showed areas where BMPs were not properly applied with no impact or with major impacts.

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#### Soil Disturbance Guidelines: Carmen Wagner

State Forests have been certified by FSC and SFI. In 2004, the Department received a Corrective Action Request (CAR) from FSC and an Opportunity for Improvement from SFI on developing definable limits to acceptable rutting.

Carmen presented the soil disturbance guidelines that Forestry Division will be using on its forest roads and on state forest timber sales. County forests may utilize similar soil disturbance guidelines.

Some advisory committee members had concerns over defining specific rut depth and length limits due to the variability of site characteristics. An outcome based approach was suggested as an alternative. It was noted that interim guidelines only establish when a soil disturbance would be considered excessive, at this point, the expectation is that timber sale administrator and contractor would work together to develop appropriate responses, depending on site characteristics, weather conditions, available resources and other factors. The guidelines will be evaluated after one year.

As part of this process, the Division will be implementing a monitoring program this summer to assess soil disturbances in timber sales. The results of this effort will help inform future modifications to the guidelines.

**Other Forestry-Related Items: Darrell Zastrow & Carmen Wagner**

**Act 79:**

The “Right to Practice Forestry” act passed through the legislature with bipartisan support. This act provides that a forestry operation may not be declared a nuisance if the operation conforms to “generally accepted forest management practices.”

**Ch. NR 102:**

The comment period was extended until February 28, 2006. There are 40 waterways proposed to be added to the ERW and ORW lists. Of the 40 waterways, 38 are currently identified as Areas of Special Natural Resource Interest (ASNRI) for Chapter 30 regulations, and as a result, the impact on forestry activities is expected to be minimal.

**Minnesota Forest Resources Council riparian area research:**

Minnesota’s site level forest management guidelines address water quality, wildlife habitat, aesthetic, and other issues. A technical committee was formed to develop scientifically-based recommendations for riparian area management and a cost-benefit analysis is being developed for the different riparian management scenarios. Among the factors considered in the economic analysis are the ecosystem services provided by riparian buffers. At the next meeting, an update on the progress of the technical committee and economic analysis will be presented.

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**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.**

The agenda for the next meeting will be shared as soon as meeting details are confirmed.